

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA:IN

SUBJECT: ENQUIRIES ON POSSIBLE INDIAN TRACKING OF US
SATELLITE SOLRAD

REFS: (A) NEW DELHI 8506; 9283;9712

1. SOLRAD ELEVEN, A AND B, ARE TWO HIGH ALTITUDE (64,000 NM) NAVAL RESEARCH LAB SATELLITES LAUNCHED 14 MARCH 1976 FROM CAPE KENNEDY. THEIR PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE REAL TIME MEASUREMENTS OF SPACE ENVIRONMENT AND SOLAR RADIATION TO ASSIST IN PREDICTION OF HIGH FREQUENCY (HF) RADIO PROPAGATION PARAMETERS.

2. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS INFORMED OF AND INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN SOLRAD PROGRAM THROUGH COSPAR (COMMITTEE ON SPACE RESEARCH) OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS.

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3. NEED FOR REAL-TIME MEASUREMENTS TO ACCOMPLISH EFFECTIVE

PREDICTIONS DICTATED HAVING TWO SATELLITES ORBITING 180 DEGREES OUT OF PHASE. COVERAGE AVAILABLE THROUGH EXISTING GROUND STATIONS FOR 85 PERCENT OF THE TIME.

4. INDIA LOCATION IS WELL SUITED TO INCREASE THE COVERAGE SUBSTANTIALLY. MOREOVER, NRL HAS WORKED WITH PHYSICAL RESEARCH LAB (AHMEDABAD) IN PAST. ALTHOUGH INDIA STATION WOULD NOT SUPPLY DATA IN REAL TIME, DELAYED DATA WOULD NONETHELESS BE USEFUL IN SCIENTIFIC STUDIES.

5. INFORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN PHYSICAL RESEARCH LAB AND NRL IS BEING DISCUSSED. NO FORMAL CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENT YET INITIATED. HOWEVER, NRL CONTEMPLATES REQUESTING DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE WITHIN SEVERAL WEEKS.

6. SUGGEST INDIAN NEWSPAPERMEN BE REFERRED TO DR. RAGHVAROA, PHYSICAL RESEARCH LAB, AHMEDABAD. KISSINGER

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